

Region 5 Monthly Newsletter

November 2014



November News

I hope that you are having a wonderful Fall. The holidays are just around the corner and everything is moving at full tilt.

There have been a lot of updates and recent developments in the area of Accountability. In this newsletter, I will highlight some of those developments. Please be sure to ask your Assessment Coordinator in your district to communicate updates regularly. As I have been visiting schools throughout the region I have found that many principals and teachers have not seen these important pieces of information.

I am also including information for Acuity schools. Many schools have questions and I hope that you will find the Q&A section helpful.

Please let me know if you have any questions. It is my pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,
Dianne McKinley
Outreach Coordinator
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Resources

- ◆ **Assessment Resources** can be found at:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment>
- ◆ **ISTEP+ Resources** can be found at:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>
- ◆ **ECA Resources** can be found at:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/end-course-assessments-ecas>
- ◆ **WIDA Standards Resources** can be found at:
<http://www.doe.in.gov/elme/wida>



Assessment Guidance

There will NOT be icons on the ISTEP+ assessment this year clueing the students in to use the reference sheet. This is due to assessing the Mathematical Process Standard PS.5 which says that students are to know when to use appropriate tools strategically.

Michele Walker and the Office of Assessment sent out multiple memos along with reference sheets for students in emails to District Assessment Coordinators. Please be sure to check with your Assessment Coordinator to ensure that these memos and reference sheets were sent to all principals and teachers. They contain helpful information and resources that

should be utilized. Make sure every student has a hard copy in front of him/her when taking the test. That way it keeps the reference sheet right there for the students to see and use as necessary. By handing every student the reference sheet right now in class and get them use to using it, it will become a routine for them. Teachers can refer to it anytime they do anything in class that is connected to the reference sheet.

From the IDOE

Thanks to the 1,500 + dedicated educators who carved time out of their fall schedules to participate in the Indiana Department of Education's ten Regional Professional Development Sessions, "Instructional Shifts in College and Career Readiness: Strategies that Empower Teaching and Learning." Of 290 school corporations in Indiana, 211 were represented during these sessions. We hope this training provided targeted information and practical strategies as educators implement the new Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics (2014) this school year.

For those of you who were not able to join us for one of the sessions, we encourage you to visit the training hub page at

<http://www.doe.in.gov/standards/indiana-academic-standards-regional-training-resource-hub> to access all of the content. You'll also be able to watch videos, view webinars, and access informational documents offered during the ten sessions.

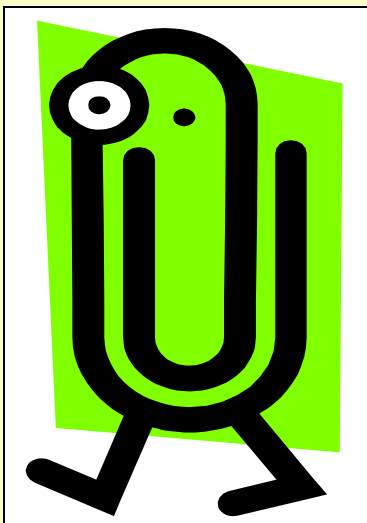
Over time, please visit the main standards hub page at <http://www.doe.in.gov> to access new guidance and resources related to the new standards. The IDOE website will serve as the location for all official IDOE information and resources.

Acuity Stress?

Are your teachers feeling stressed out about the first round of Acuity assessments because students are scoring so low? "Please let teachers know that in the past Acuity was divided up a little differently. The first Acuity assessment had what normally was covered in the first third of the school year. The second Acuity assessment had what was normally covered in the first two-thirds of the school year and the last Acuity assessment had anything from the entire year on the assessment. This year is different. The first round of Acuity assessments has the entire year's material on the test. This means students may perform very poorly since teachers have not taught two-thirds of the material that is being covered on the assessment. With only 25 or so questions on the first Acuity assessment, students should be scoring in the single digits on this round. This is very different than

in the past when students would be getting around 15 - 20 questions correct. The second round of Acuity assessments will also have the entire year's material on the test. So again students will not be scoring as well as they have in the past but should at least be in double digit correct answers on this round. Teachers should be seeing GROWTH from the first round to the second round and so forth and so on for the third round. This is very different from the past so teacher rightfully so are a little distraught. So please be aware and please help calm the teachers and explain what is happening this year with Acuity assessments."

-Bill Reed



Attachments

Attached to this email you will find the following documents. Please be sure to read over each carefully and share them with teachers.

- 3 Assessment Support Memos with resources
- Experience CCRA User Guide
- Experience CCRA Answer Key
- IDOE Acuity Readiness FAQ
- PowerPoint-ISTEP & ECA Math guidance

Teacher of the Year

**Congratulations to Kathy Nimmer from Harrison High School
Region 5's Tippecanoe School Corporation**

I hope you will be joining
the Indiana Department of Education, Superintendent Glenda Ritz
and the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee
for the



2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year Banquet

Honoring the
2015 Indiana Teacher of the Year,
Finalists, and Semifinalists

Friday, November 7, 2014
Indianapolis Hilton North
Castleton Ballroom

8181 N Shadeland Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46250

6:00pm registration

6:30pm Banquet Begins

*Registration for this event has now closed. I hope to see you
there!